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Chairman: Mr. Niculescu ..... (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 97: Training and research (*continued*) (A/55/14, A/55/369 and Add.1, A/55/473 and Corr.1, A/55/510; A/C.2/55/L.25 and Rev.1)

1. **Mr. Boisard** (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)) said that, as stated in his report (A/55/14), UNITAR had worked during the past year on the basis of the essential principles that had guided its restructuring. The majority of the members of the Board of Trustees had been reappointed by the Secretary-General, the nature and number of programmes implemented had been streamlined, capacity-building programmes had been given an increasingly greater role and an in-depth study of training and capacity-building goals and methods had been carried out. While the financial situation, was generally satisfactory, there had been little improvement because there had been too few voluntary contributions to the General Fund; however, the Special Purpose Grants Fund continued to receive a relatively high level of contributions. The Institute remained fragile and vulnerable, and he wondered if it would not be possible to provide for a limited annual subsidy from the Organization's regular budget, owing to the numerous requests for assistance from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2. The quest for cost-free rental and maintenance of premises had not yet been resolved, despite the most recent General Assembly resolutions on that matter. The Institute's Board of Trustees hoped that the General Assembly would take an explicit decision on the issue.

3. Progress had been made in two areas. On the one hand, inter-agency cooperation had increased, and joint programmes which had the potential to achieve results, allowing UNITAR to demonstrate its flexibility, efficiency and creativity, had been implemented. The Institute was also endeavouring to strengthen its presence in the field in order to better serve Member States. In that regard, he noted the establishment of an International Training Centre for Local Actors and current negotiations on the upcoming launch of programmes targeting the Asia-Pacific region. Generally speaking, programmes had stabilized and there had been a controlled increase in UNITAR training activities during the past year.

4. From 1990 to 2000, a period that essentially corresponded to the Institute's restructuring, the number of programmes had increased by 440 per cent and the number of participants by 630 per cent, whereas voluntary contributions had decreased by 13 per cent. That apparent contradiction could be explained, first, by the fact that during the restructuring period, projects that met highly specific needs had been carried out; thus, it had been possible to fund them from the Special Purpose Grants Fund, whose financial resources had actually increased at a time when contributions to the General Fund were decreasing.

5. Second, the increase in programmes and participants could be explained by the Institute's method of intervention in the area of training, which involved helping States to plan institutional capacity-building on a participatory basis and to evaluate the results achieved. It should be noted, however, that the Institute currently provided the United Nations with a practical, effective training tool.

6. The great majority of UNITAR programmes (70 per cent) were already being carried out in the recipient countries or regions, thereby meeting the restructuring goals of establishing a non-academic-type training system, dispatching trainers to the places where the recipients would be trained and strengthening cooperation with agencies in the developing countries. Much remained to be done, however, to transmit knowledge, technical expertise and the accumulated experience of the system to the countries that needed such training.

7. While the Institute was in the service of Member States, it must also meet numerous requests from the Secretary-General. In that regard, he mentioned a series of peacekeeping conferences, known as the "Singapore conferences", which had provided a general critical overview of that issue. The Secretary-General and members of the Security Council received reports of such conferences that were broadly disseminated at a later date. UNITAR had launched a Programme for Briefing and Debriefing Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General. That programme had begun with the publication of a handbook prepared on the basis of lessons learned; later, the special representatives and envoys had been given more systematic, complete training. That activity was part of the Secretary-General's follow-up to the Brahimi report.

8. The Institute's future work in the areas of analysis and programme implementation was dependent on a solid financial basis that it did not yet have, since it lacked the minimum level of general-purpose funding that would allow it to act with the essential flexibility. He urged the industrialized countries to resume their contributions to the Institute.

9. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Staff College project (A/55/369), said that the initiative taken the previous year to carry out an independent evaluation of the Staff College project had been very timely and had served to inject in the process the capacity of the system to build and sustain, through its staff, a common managerial culture that facilitated mutual reinforcement among sectors and organizations in the pursuit of common objectives. The institutionalization of the Staff College was more necessary than ever.

10. The report of the Independent Evaluation Team on the future of the United Nations Staff College (A/55/369/Add.1) suggested that, at that stage, the reasons for the institutionalization of the College were compelling, and that the necessary policy framework for ensuring maximum benefits to the system, Member States and the international community existed. The decisions on the future of the Staff College were largely procedural, but they should be informed by substantive policy considerations and the cumulative experience of recent years. In that connection, the report of the Evaluation Team was useful, since it assessed accomplishments during the pilot phase of the Staff College on the basis of extensive consultations throughout the system, and concluded that the assessment provided a positive basis for the continuation of the Staff College, particularly in the light of the growing demand for its services.

11. The assessment of the Evaluation Team was not limited to justifying the institutionalization of the Staff College; it also analysed current limitations and requirements for the achievement of maximum future effectiveness.

12. A basic constraint had been the absence of a real system of governance. However, the Secretary-General, in his report, fully supported the views of the Evaluation Team that a basic component of the future status of the Staff College was the introduction of an effective system of inter-agency governance. Presumably, the core support that should be given to the Staff College by the organizations of the United Nations would be perceived not as an external obligation, but rather as part of their own capacity- and team-building and knowledge-creation and sharing efforts. The recommendation to rename the Staff College "the United Nations System Staff College" should be understood in that context. He hoped that the recommendation would be endorsed by the Assembly.

13. It should be clear that the strict differentiation in their mandates should not detract from the importance of collaboration between the Staff College and the United Nations University and UNITAR (a consideration which also applied to its future relationship with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin), and that that differentiation should not be perceived as divergence in relation to the basic principle of providing effective services to Member States. In the light of the actions to be taken by the General Assembly, the next step would be the development of an implementation plan, prioritizing functions and specifying programmes to be undertaken by the College and providing an indication of governance and financing arrangements. That work would be done by an inter-agency working group that would submit its report to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in spring 2001. The report should fully reflect actual needs perceived by the organizations themselves and represent an inter-agency consensus on all aspects of the Staff College. In that context, he stressed that the process of institutionalizing the Staff College, which had been expected to take three years, could, in the view of the organizations of the system, be completed in the next few months. The relevant elements of the plan would be reflected in a final version of the Statute of the Staff College to be submitted to the Assembly following the spring 2001 session of ACC.

14. He expressed appreciation for the support received from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and donors such as Denmark, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and others, which had made it possible for the Staff College project to become a reality. It was to be hoped that that support would continue in the future so that the United Nations system would be able to obtain the maximum possible benefits from the Staff College.

15. **Mr. Machin** (Director of the United Nations Staff College) said that it was a critical time for the future of the United Nations Staff College. If the Staff College was to carry out fully its function as a catalyst in the process of change in the United Nations, it must be put on a stable and secure footing. In the past two years, the Staff College had undergone a process of review, reorganization and streamlining. Its programmes were at the centre of United Nations reform and could have a considerable impact on the way in which the United Nations did its work, particularly at the field level.

16. First, with regard to peacekeeping, the early warning and conflict prevention programme was a crucial instrument in the efforts of the United Nations system to mainstream conflict prevention and peace-building. In its first 18 months of operation, the Staff College had trained some 500 officials across the system. Second, the College's training programmes for resident coordinators and United Nations country teams were having a major impact on field-level reform, and the Staff College planned to train some 40 country teams a year. Third, the first learning workshop had recently been conducted for 14 Under-Secretary-Generals in the area of strategic communication. In view of the workshop's success and the demand for it, it would be repeated next year.

17. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Institute's primary responsibility for training and capacity-building for developing countries and the staff of diplomatic missions to the United Nations had been evident during the current year. The developing countries, especially those in Africa, were among the biggest beneficiaries of UNITAR programmes. Its policy of cooperation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be extended to all aspects of information and communications technology. The areas where UNITAR directed its efforts and resources to meet the needs of the developing countries must be deserving of the support of the international community. Inadequate funding thus remained a cause for concern. While the main contributors had suspended their assistance during the UNITAR crisis in the late 1980s, the Institute's current impressive performance as a result of its restructuring and revitalization at the request of the General Assembly should convince those donors to reconsider their positions.

18. He stressed the need to maintain the Institute's offices in Geneva and New York and to provide additional facilities free of charge. From the Secretary-General's report, it was clear that the General Assembly must take that decision. Another noteworthy issue was the need to upgrade the level of the post of the Executive Director, commensurate with his responsibilities. It was encouraging that the Secretary-General was considering the matter; a decision should be taken without delay.

19. **Mr. Doutriaux** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the other associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as Iceland, said that the European Union welcomed the improvement in the situation of UNITAR in recent years and the enhancement of its image, not only in Geneva and New York, but in the developing countries, where most of its training programmes were conducted.

20. It was regrettable that voluntary contributions to the Institute's General Fund remained inadequate, reducing and inhibiting its capacity for initiative, even though the level of contributions to the Special Purpose Grants Fund was more satisfactory. The Institute must broaden the range of its contributors to include foundations and the private sector, and a campaign was therefore needed to make its training programmes better known. The European Union was also concerned by the problem of rental charges paid by UNITAR. In view of the services it provided for the United Nations, appropriate facilities, in particular office space, should be made available free of charge in Geneva, New York and Nairobi. The General Assembly should adopt a resolution on the matter.

21. The European Union welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2000 by the United Nations University and approved its broad outlines. It was necessary to maintain a balance among the four main tasks facing the United Nations University, namely, to constitute an international community of scholars, to serve as a bridge between the United Nations and the international academic community, to act as a think tank for the United Nations and to build capacity, particularly in developing countries. The two programme areas selected by the University — peace and governance and environment and sustainable development — adequately reflected the main

challenges facing the world at the beginning of the new millennium.

22. The United Nations University must not simply be a reservoir of ideas but must link the international scientific community and political decision makers. It was also essential to encourage the development of solid academic communities in the developing countries and the establishment of international networks connecting those communities.

23. The European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the United Nations Staff College should be formally established, as it would make a significant contribution to United Nations reform by promoting a coherent and dynamic management culture and increasing the efficiency of the staff. It was also very important for the Staff College to be able to act as a catalyst for change within the system as a provider of training and knowledge services for the leadership of all United Nations bodies.

24. Taking note of the support which the International Labour Organization (ILO) had provided to the Staff College over the past five years, the European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to create a group within the Administrative Committee on Coordination to work out the arrangements for the administration and funding of the College. The working group should submit a report to the General Assembly in 2001, and it would be desirable for the discussion to take place during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly so that the United Nations Staff College could begin operations on 1 January 2002.

25. It was important that the training activities entrusted to the Staff College should include the topic of the transition from emergency assistance to development, which had recently been a topic of discussion within the United Nations and with donors. It welcomed the inclusion of the topic of prevention and management of conflicts and humanitarian crises in the Staff College training programme. It was essential to maintain a clear demarcation of responsibilities between the Staff College and other United Nations training centres, in particular UNITAR and the United Nations University. The institutions must be complementary, in order to make the best use of limited resources.

26. The European Union also paid tribute to the activities of the International Development Law Institute and to its former director, Mr. Hager, for his work in developing training in public and private law in the countries that needed it most. The mandate it had received to train all the judges in East Timor deserved special note. The European Union urged its new director, Mr. Loris, to continue the work of his predecessor and called on all donors to increase their financial contributions to the Institute, whose activities were not well-known.

27. **Mr. Murat** (Haiti), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), endorsed the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that the CARICOM member States saw UNITAR as one of the instruments that could help them to address the problems of the twenty-first century. The new approach to development projects and the new teaching methods developed by the Institute assisted developing countries, especially the least-developed ones. Similarly, the methods of evaluation were an effective means of enabling developing countries to better articulate their training requirements. However, CARICOM would like the discussions to focus on economic, financial, social and trade issues related to sustainable development. He expressed the Community's gratitude for the work UNITAR was doing to strengthen the capacity of developing country delegations to participate more effectively in the work of the United Nations, and welcomed the Institute's decision to hire specialists from developing countries.

28. With regard to the United Nations University, CARICOM welcomed the adoption of its new Strategic Plan, whose broad outlines were designed to transform the University into an instrument of research and creative thinking that could help CARICOM countries to address their shortcomings. In that regard, the focus of its work on issues relating to peace, governance, environment and sustainable development seemed promising. In that context, he wished to highlight not only the strengthening of the University's ties with various United Nations research agencies, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNITAR, and with other research and training centres throughout the world, but also the University's initiative to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the area of research.

29. Concerning the Institute's financial situation, CARICOM member States welcomed the assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as the financial support provided by some donor countries for the work of the Institute. However, in view of the precarious financial situation of the Institute, he appealed to developed countries to make fresh voluntary contributions to it. The issue of the post of Executive Director of the Institute should be settled once and for all in order to ensure continuity in the management of the Institute. Moreover, the New York offices of UNITAR needed to be strengthened. In that regard, the Secretary-General should provide additional facilities to UNITAR to enable it to deliver better service to the States that benefited from its training programmes.

30. Finally, he expressed the Caribbean Community's gratitude to the Executive Director and staff of UNITAR for the way in which they had dealt with the issue of small island developing States.

31. **Mr. Chave** (Observer for Switzerland) said that he would focus his statement on two elements: the nature and function of the training programmes offered by UNITAR and the insufficient amount of financial resources available to the Institute.

32. UNITAR implemented training and capacity-building programmes on a wide range of topics that clearly met needs in the field or within the framework of activities of missions to the United Nations in New York and at Geneva. The Institute focused on two programme areas: training in diplomacy, including preventive diplomacy; and management of economic and social development, that covered questions relating to environmental development, financial management — especially debt management — and public administration in general. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the programmes organized by UNITAR at its New York office and Geneva headquarters accounted for only 14 and 16 per cent, respectively, of all its activities, and that 70 per cent of the activities were implemented in a decentralized manner in the field, where needs were more pressing.

33. Apart from the relevance of its programmes, one of the strong points of UNITAR was its ability to combine its own knowledge with skills for mobilizing high-level experts in the Institute's areas of work. Based on those dual skills, UNITAR provided effective support to developing countries or countries with economies in transition, helping them to better understand the aforementioned issues in their global context and to acquire the necessary tools to address them. That situation was especially evident with respect to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

34. UNITAR had clearly made substantial progress in carrying out the restructuring and revitalization mandated by the General Assembly in the early 1990s. In that regard, his delegation, which believed that UNITAR deserved increased political as well as financial support, wished to stress the critical financial situation facing the Institute.

35. As was the case with other bodies of the United Nations system, UNITAR did not receive any direct financial contributions from the regular budget of the Organization and therefore had to mobilize its own funds. As indicated in the reports submitted, contributions to the General Fund were inadequate and had been fluctuating constantly since the beginning of the current decade. That situation unnecessarily complicated the Institute's management and restricted its autonomy. Moreover, contributions to the Special Purpose Grants Fund had declined in absolute terms by some 40 per cent over the past four years, which worsened the situation of the General Fund, since its resources depended to a great extent on the handling charge that UNITAR levied on contributions to the Special Purpose Grants Fund.

36. It was important to stress that funding for the Institute's entire budget was provided by a limited number of donors, and that in recent years, on the average, half of all contributions to the Special Purpose Grants Fund had been made by a single donor, Switzerland. Apart from the critical funding situation faced by UNITAR, his delegation considered that the predominance of a single donor called into serious question the principle of multilateralism with respect to that United Nations body.

37. Despite the General Assembly's repeated calls for increased financial contributions to UNITAR and the effective implementation of reforms within the Institute, most of the main contributing countries had not resumed their contributions after having suspended them during the Institute's crisis. Thus, strengthening the General Fund and the Special Purpose Grants Fund and diversifying donors remained an extremely important factor for the Institute. He therefore urged

Member States and, in particular, industrialized countries and countries that made use of UNITAR training programmes, to participate actively in funding the Institute in order to guarantee its long-term development and the viability of its programmes.

38. With respect to the United Nations Staff College, his delegation regretted that despite the great importance of the matter, there had been a long delay in issuing the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/369) and the report of the independent evaluation team (A/55/369/Add.1). Moreover, his Government, which had helped to fund that project from the beginning, could not understand why it had not been consulted during the evaluation. Nonetheless, Switzerland's comments at the previous session of the General Assembly had been taken into consideration, especially with regard to the need for the Staff College to better adapt its programmes and operations to the needs expressed by United Nations country teams, particularly in the context of United Nations reform and the deployment of the resident coordinator system; the need to decentralize its training activities at country level; and the need to work in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Group and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions.

39. His delegation considered that the United Nations Staff College served as a valuable catalyst and should continue to do so. The Staff College's new statutes should allow it to obtain a firm financial commitment from its clients through the provision of high quality services; it was therefore reasonable that it should be funded by the United Nations bodies to which it provided services. In the light of the comments that had been made, his delegation was in favour of maintaining the Staff College on a more permanent basis in accordance with the Secretary-General's recommendations and awaited with interest the draft statutes of the United Nations System Staff College, which would be submitted in 2001.

40. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that he associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and that training and research were of central importance to the continued growth and development of a nation or organization. In an era of knowledge-based growth and development, well-trained human capital had become a major factor in determining the destinies of nations. His country, which attached the utmost importance to the promotion of training and research at all levels, had traditionally supported those activities in the United Nations because of their immense value not only to the Organization, but also to Member States and, in particular, developing countries.

41. UNITAR, the United Nations Staff College project and the United Nations University played an extremely useful role in providing training and research services not only to the United Nations system but also to Member States and, by so doing, had made a significant contribution to human resource development.

42. The youngest of those institutions, the United Nations Staff College project, which provided training to the Organization's staff members, had met the learning and knowledge-sharing needs of the staff of the United Nations system. The Staff College could play a catalytic role in improving the quality of the leaders and staff of the United Nations system. The independent evaluation team had made various useful recommendations, which must be thoroughly examined in order to achieve the full potential of the Staff College project.

43. The United Nations University had made significant strides in producing research documents that had provided intellectual input to the work of the United Nations and contained action-oriented proposals that had helped to shape thinking on the role of the United Nations in meeting the challenges posed by globalization, intra-State conflicts and a knowledge-driven economy. His delegation agreed with the Rector of the United Nations University that the Organization must act as a bridge between the international academic community and the United Nations.

44. His delegation congratulated the Executive Director of UNITAR and the members of his team for completing the restructuring of the Institute, which had truly reinvented itself. Its training activities were now focused and consistent with the requirements of the participants. UNITAR had built strategic alliances with United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and Member States were now benefiting greatly from its activities.

45. In order to maintain the level of services being provided by UNITAR, it was of critical importance to establish continuity in the management of the Institute. That goal should be a primary consideration when taking decisions about the future of the Institute.

Another factor, perhaps the most important, was to increase the flow of resources to the UNITAR General Fund. Despite calls by the General Assembly, the level of contributions had not improved. UNITAR, however, which had received no subsidies whatsoever from the regular budget of the United Nations since 1993, was continuing to provide free training facilities to Member States.

46. In its resolution 54/229 of 22 December 1999, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices in New York and Geneva. His delegation had therefore been surprised to note that paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/510) had stated that no additional considerations had emerged to warrant a deviation from the established policy and practice regarding the rental of United Nations premises.

47. It was clear that exempting UNITAR from the payment of rent would be consistent with the existing practice and would not necessitate any policy deviation. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the Note by the Secretary-General on the rental of United Nations premises by press and other entities (A/C.5/54/25), some organizations had traditionally been exempt from paying rent. Such organizations included the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. Apparently, there was no plausible reason to deny the same exemption to UNITAR, an Institute that was providing free training facilities to Member States.

48. His delegation therefore called upon the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to waive maintenance costs for the premises occupied by UNITAR in Geneva and New York. The important role played by UNITAR in the area of training should be given due recognition.

49. He also urged that all United Nations training institutions, particularly UNITAR, should be strengthened and provided with sufficient resources in order to enable them to fulfil their mandates in the most effective manner. It was an investment in the future.

50. **Mr. Mangoaela** (Lesotho), speaking on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and having endorsed the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that UNITAR had become a symbol of efficiency as a result of the excellent services provided to Member States and throughout the United Nations system. For almost a decade, UNITAR had managed to continue its activities without a deficit and, most notably, had managed to expand them on the basis of earmarked contributions. Following the staff reorganization, the Institute's work had become more focused and operational, and a direct link had been established between its activities and funded programmes. It had also made commendable progress in responding to the need for greater cooperation within the United Nations system so as to meet the increased demand for training in a cost-effective manner.

51. There was no doubt that Member States, regardless of their level of development, could attest to the importance of UNITAR. In order to ensure national ownership of the training function, UNITAR designed its programmes in collaboration with the beneficiary Governments and the donor community. That partnership was extended to the international arena, where UNITAR operations were conducted on a joint basis, in order to translate the decisions and agreements of the United Nations and other international organizations into programmes that could be implemented on the ground.

52. With regard to training activities in the region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), UNITAR had been providing training for government officials on the legal aspects of debt and financial management since 1990. All the Institute's training programmes had been conducted in collaboration with African regional training institutes. In southern Africa, UNITAR was working, on a cost-sharing basis, with the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa to conduct workshops such as the seminar on negotiation strategies and techniques to be held in Windhoek , Namibia in November 2000.

53. Since 1999, UNITAR had been carrying out a series of government capacity-building and training activities on migration and migration management within the framework of the International Migration Policy Programme, an inter-agency programme of UNITAR, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). For example, in April 1999 a major conference had been held in Pretoria, South Africa, with the

participation of senior government officials from SADC countries. As a follow-up to that conference, the International Migration Policy Programme and UNITAR would be organizing a seminar for all the SADC countries in Swaziland from 6 to 9 November 2000.

54. In support of the efforts of SADC countries to protect human health and the environment from toxic and dangerous chemicals, UNITAR had assisted a number of SADC member States in preparing national profiles assessing their situation and identifying the action needed. Those projects were being implemented pursuant to a recommendation of the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety, with the collaboration of many stakeholders in the participating countries.

55. Despite its efficiency and relevance, the Institute had not been able to respond to requests for training and assistance from Member States because of lack of funding. The General Fund, aimed at developing new programmes and sharing the Institute's innovations with other institutions and crafting a system-wide approach to capacity-building, was insufficient for the task. The SADC countries therefore called on the international community to increase its voluntary contributions to the Institute to ensure that it continued to be autonomous, stable and able to provide its services in a sustainable manner. They supported the proposal to waive the rental and maintenance costs for its premises in Geneva and New York.

56. **Mr. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that his delegation endorsed Nigeria's statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Regarding the work of UNITAR, he commended its training activities, which had proved to be highly useful to the beneficiaries, especially the developing countries. However, in order to derive the greatest possible benefit from those activities, the United Nations system must support the concept of UNITAR as the body entrusted with providing training free of charge to Member States. The Institute must be given support in the form of conference services and a waiver of rental and maintenance charges for its premises in New York and Geneva. Moreover, more space should be found for its New York office to enable it to hold meetings and offer its various training courses.

57. Coordination must be established urgently between UNITAR and the secretariats of the Main Committees of the General Assembly so as to harmonize their respective work programmes. It was important for UNITAR training activities relating to the items on the Second Committee's agenda to be included in the Committee's programme of work. That would allow it to maximize the benefits and avoid lost opportunities for small countries in particular, which did not have the capacity to send representatives to all activities simultaneously. In addition, it should be possible to consider the agenda item "Training and research" before the annual consideration by the United Nations of matters related to operational activities for development, so that the Institute and other training and research institutions would have an opportunity to obtain financial contributions from Member States.

58. Finally, he welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Staff College project (A/55/369) and the recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Evaluation Team on the future of the United Nations Staff College (A/55/369/Add.1). He hoped that the Staff College would give new impetus to United Nations activities in the areas of economic and social development and international peace and security, and that it would strengthen the system's management culture.

59. **Mr. Howell** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said, with reference to the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Staff College project (A/55/369), that the Staff College had benefited from the exchange of knowledge and experience with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin. The activities of the Centre exceeded 300 programmes and projects, with over 8,000 participants.

60. Over the past several years, ILO had been proud to host the United Nations Staff College at its Turin campus. Working in close partnership with the United Nations system as a whole, ILO had led an important new inter-agency and system-wide team-building initiative to enhance the effectiveness of in-country development efforts. ILO was gratified that its work in that area had been recognized.

61. The Governing Board of the ILO Centre in Turin, at its recently ended sixty-second session, had welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation to establish the United Nations System Staff College from 1 January 2002. In its view, the interaction with the Centre would create useful synergies.

62. ILO looked forward with interest to the conclusion of an appropriate agreement and its

approval by the Board of the Centre on the administrative and funding arrangements for the establishment of the Staff College on the premises of the Centre. The Board of the Centre had taken the necessary steps to provide guiding principles for guaranteeing the future of the Centre's valued cooperation with the United Nations system. The legal framework within which the Centre operated, governed by the agreement already established between the central and local Italian authorities and ILO, must be kept in mind.

63. ILO agreed with the Secretary-General's view that the Turin Centre was making a significant contribution to the fostering of team spirit within the United Nations system, and it was greatly interested in participating fully in the consultations that would bring to fruition the new phase in training. It pledged to do everything possible to bring those negotiations to a successful and mutually beneficial conclusion.

64. **Mr. Chandavarkar** (Director of the Division of United Nations Affairs of the United Nations Development Programme) said that UNDP had been one of the agencies most interested in the work of the United Nations Staff College, with which it had jointly organized many training activities for resident coordinators and country teams. UNDP welcomed the findings of the Independent Evaluation Team on the Future of the United Nations Staff College (A/55/369/Add.1) and the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Staff College Project (A/55/369) and looked forward to taking an active part in the new inter-agency governance structure of the Staff College.

65. The Staff College represented a forum through which knowledge of the system on peace and security as well as economic and social development could be shared and enhanced further. Along with other training and research arms of the United Nations system, including the United Nations University and UNITAR, the Staff College would help to ensure that individual entities of the United Nations system would stay at the cutting edge in their fields of expertise.

66. In addition to information and knowledge management, the Staff College would promote the creation of a common managerial culture throughout the United Nations system and a shared set of basic common organizational values among the agencies, funds and programmes that went beyond the institutional differences between individual agencies. Finally, it was important for the Staff College to reach out to academia, civil society and the private sector, so that the United Nations system might better cross-fertilize its thinking and knowledge with the world at large.

67. **Mr. Choi** Seok-young (Republic of Korea) welcomed the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR (A/55/14) and said that the rapid pace of globalization was making it imperative to undertake diversified and closely interrelated activities, for which participants required appropriate training. In that connection, the role of UNITAR took on increasing importance, since it enhanced the capacity of countries, especially developing countries, to participate in the activities of the United Nations.

68. Although since 1999 the Institute had been conducting programmes funded by the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Foundation for International Partnership, its financial situation remained fragile. His delegation hoped that the United Nations system, especially the funds and programmes, would continue to support UNITAR activities. It also encouraged donor countries to contribute to the promotion of such activities. With regard to the training activities implemented by UNITAR, higher priority should be placed on enhancing the capacity of countries, especially developing countries, not only to better understand and adequately deal with the process of globalization and its diverse consequences, but also to grasp the role of information and communication technology.

69. **Mr. Katzakski** (Bulgaria) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and countries associated with the European Union, and expressed sincere appreciation for the work of the International Development Law Institute (IDLI). Bulgaria had an excellent and long-standing relationship with that Institute, where many Bulgarian judges and lawyers had received training. The Institute had also conducted many training activities in his country. It had also made a significant contribution to anti-corruption efforts and continued to work with local organizations, passing on its expertise to them with the aim of further expanding the scope of its training.

70. Bulgaria, which had been a State member of IDLI since 1995, was of the view that the organization

deserved greater recognition from the international community for its contribution to enhancing the role of the judiciary and strengthening the rule of law in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It would be desirable for the United Nations to formally recognize the role played by IDLI in the development process and support, wherever possible, future opportunities for joint collaboration in their respective fields of endeavour.

Draft resolution on the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy (A/C.2/55/L.25)

71. **Mr. Doutriaux** (France) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.25 on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Agenda item 94: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation *(continued)*

(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy *(continued)* (A/C.2/55/L.4)

Draft resolution on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/C.2/55/L.4)

72. **The Chairman** announced that Argentina had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.4.

Agenda item 95 : Environment and sustainable development *(continued)* (A/C.2/55/L.11)

Draft resolution on enhancing the complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development (A/C.2/55/L.11)

73. **The Chairman** announced that the United States of America had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.11.

Agenda item 100: Globalization and interdependence *(continued)* (A/C.2/55/L.16)

Draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (A/C.2/55/L.16)

74. **The Chairman** announced that Brazil had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.16.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.